

Vol. 5 No. 3

Fall 1991

A Publication of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association

## Chapter Chatter

### Western Michigan Chapter:

Western Michigan Chapter  
P.O. Box 155  
Macatawa, MI 49434  
Chapter President: Ian Joyce  
(616) 394-5985

Vice President: Bob Lawson  
(616) 948-4192

Meeting Dates Are: Second Tuesday of the month, at various locations around the chapter area. Contact Ian for more information. Weekly chapter ride is 2:00 PM, Sunday at Yankee Springs Recreation Area-meet at the Deep Lake Campground, other rides are arranged on a regular basis, contact chapter presidents.

### Cannonsburg Clean-up

Fall is approaching, and with it our last chance to buff the trails at Cannonsburg State Game Area. Join the West Michigan Chapter on Sunday, October 13, at the Four Mile parking lot. There's lots to do, so your attendance is important. Bring Tools and your bike; after the work session we'll find time to ride. For more information call Ian Joyce at (616) 394-5985.

All chapters welcome!

### Fall Ride: Western Michigan Chapter At Yankee Springs.....

The Place: Deep Lake Campground

The Time: Sunday, October 27 at 2:00 PM

The Reason: To ride and enjoy autumn in Michigan on the Cramer/Lawson Trail (not to mention one of the best rails around...). Bring your bike and an appetite, we'll ride for awhile, then meet at Sam's Joint for dinner. We'll also discuss how we can make the Cramer/Lawson trail even better and if we will need to have a clean-up trail maintenance secession in the spring. Don't miss it! For more information call: (616) 394-5985.

### Mid-Michigan Chapter:

Mid-Michigan Chapter  
P.O. Box 4814

East Lansing, MI 48823

Chapter President: Joelene Smith (517) 347-1114

Vice President: Pat Dueke (517) 351-7724

Meeting Dates Are: First Wednesday of the Month at 7:30 PM. For rides times and dates contact Joelene. (cont. on page 4)

## What You Must Know About the Potofest.....

By Brian Delaney

The following interview questions are excerpts from two separate conversations that took place earlier last month. One was with Jon Rutherford, Potofest founder, with roots in the sport at its infancy. The other was with Jon Labossiere, Park Manager at Pinckney Rec. Area, who, along with his staff have always kept an open dialogue with the Poto chapter of the MMBA. The conversations focus on the past present and possible future of the Potofest - a mountain bike non-event which celebrates its fifth anniversary this October. Anyone who would like information on the Potofest or the Potawatomi Trail in general can call either Jon Rutherford, (313) 475-0276 or Jon Labossiere, at Pinckney Recreation Area (313) 426-4913.

### THE POTOFEST FILES

Brian D: Jon (Rutherford), could you give me some background? How long have you been riding?

Jon R: I've been riding mountain bikes since January of '83. I went (continued on page 6)

# DNR Trails Update . . .

Land managers within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources view the summer of 1991 as another banner year in terms of tourism and outdoor recreational activities within the Great Lakes State. Camping, boating, and all types of day-use were vigorously pursued in both peninsulas on the over 8 million acres of public land administrated by the department and federal agencies.

More and more folks continue to "hit the trails" for hiking and biking and equestrian activities. In particular, significantly on designated trails, especially in southern lower Michigan.

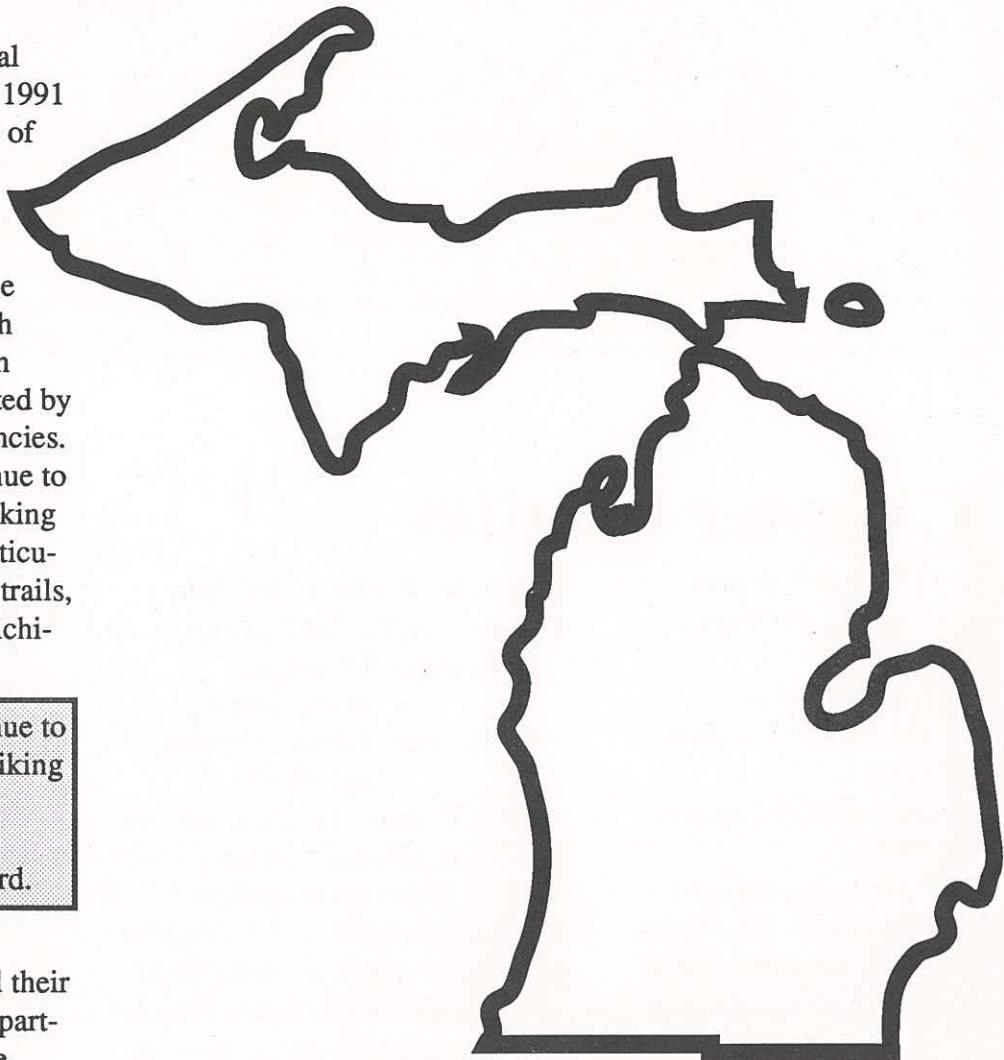
More and more folks continue to "hit the trails" for hiking and biking and equestrian activites...

John Roethel  
State Trails Coord.

Folks that have volunteered their time and talents to assist the department in signing and trail maintenance projects are to be commended. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

The department remains committed to the goals of developing the trails program to a top level of national prominence. The success of this initiative is going to relate directly to the amount of participation that citizens and organized groups extend to governmental officials at all levels. Keep in touch with your township and county officials and state legislators on trail related opportunities.

On October 1st of this year, I  
(continued on page 11)



## MMBA Responsibility Code

1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails
5. Don't disturb wildlife or live stock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.

## NOTES FOR YOUR FANNY PACK:

### NOTE 1

#### **AND THE WINNER IS:**

Marie Watson

of

Lansing Michigan

Marie won a brand new Trek, which was donated to the MMBA to help raise funds for the state and local chapters. Thank you Trek for helping all of us ride, carefore and enjoy the trails throughout Michigan.

### NOTE 2

#### **Pando Challenge Mt. Bike Race**

Where: Pando Ski Area, Belding MI When: October 13

Contact: Fun Promotions (616) 363-6552

MMBA Point Series Event (see ad on page 14)

#### **Third Annual Covered Bridge Classic**

Where: Deer Field Park-M 20Mt. Pleasant MI

Where: Deer Field Park-M 20 When: Sunday October. 6

Contact: Central Mi Wellness Program Office (517) 772-6780

#### **Second Annual Ice Man Cometh Challenge**

Where: Kalkaska Mi When: November 2

Contact: Ice Man Promotions (616) 941-7044

#### **Classified Ads**

**Wanted:** Some one to take over layout, printing and production of the Bent Rim Bugle. You will receive unlimited fame and fortune, but best of all you will be helping mountain bikers all around the country by spreading news and information about the sport. Contact your local Chapter President or Dwain (616) 785-0120.

**Mountain Bike**, a book by Dwain Abramowski. Published by Franklin Watts of New York. Everything children and adults need to know to get started mountain biking. 64 pages, full color. For your copy send 13.50 to P.O. Box 29, Belmont, MI 49306 or see your local bookstore (\$11.95) or local bicycle shops around the state.



#### **Staff**

##### **Editor**

Dwain Abramowski  
(with help from)  
John Dohan & Chris

##### **Contributing Writers**

Meg Delaney, Brian Delaney  
John Dohan, & Guest Writer Rachel Shaw

##### **DNR Column Provided By**

Jon Roethle  
State Trails Coordinator

##### **Design/Layout**

Dwain Abramowski  
(With help from)  
Northland Photo Imaging

##### **Contributing Photographers**

Mid Michigan Chapter  
of the MMBA  
Dwain Abramowski

##### **Music Provided By**

Van Morrison  
Sam Stryke

##### **Material Provided By**

"Our Mother Earth"

Use them wisely and recycle.

This magazine is printed on recycled paper.

(note 2 continued)

#### **Second Annual Chili-Chili Ride**

When: November 9 Where: Holland

Contact: Highwheeler Bike Shop, (616) 396-6084

#### **The One and Only Potofest**

Win a fantasic prizes, including a box of Jiffy Mix or a hat!

See Article on the front page of the Bent Rim Bugle

(continued on page 7)

(Chapter Chatter continued from front page - Mid-Michigan Chapter)

**Small Chapter Does Big Things:**

**By Dennis Hansen**

Though our chapter is small we have been very active over the last year. In addition to getting Sleepy Hollow State Park opened after it was closed to mountain bikes, the chapter, especially members Gale and Karen Harkness have been instrumental in getting the Grand River County Park (SW of Lansing) not only opened to mountain bikes but assisted park staff in designing and constructing a 5 mile trail. The trail dedication was featured in a story on local TV news and print media recently. In addition, the chapter has had several clean up and trail maintenance sessions at Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area NE of Lansing and Sleepy Hollow State Park, and more are planned on a regular basis. The Chapter has worked hard to gain the confidence of local park officials to the extent that we are now given considerable freedom in trail maintenance activities.

But all is not work. In addition to regular rides on the favorite SW Michigan trails, chapter members have taken trips on the 80 mile loop of the High Country Pathway west of Gaylord and The North Country Trail in Manistee County. Another trip is planned to the North Country Trail and possibly the High Country Pathway this coming fall. If you are interested in going, and a MMBA member, even if you are not a chapter member, call Dennis Hansen (517) 349-4683 for details.

Also, members are active in the MMBA points series, with President Joelene Smith, being quite

successful this race season. If you live in the Mid-Michigan area, we want to hear from you. So, read the newsletter and get involved in the activities. Call Joelene at (517) 347-1114 or Dennis Hansen at (517) 349-4683 for more information.

**Pontiac Lake Chapter**

Pontiac Lake Chapter  
2528 Elizabeth Lake Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48328  
President: Gary Moore (313) 698-3093  
Vice President: Craig James (313) 698-9481

Contact Tom Nell Bicycles Ltd. for meeting dates, rides and times (313) 682-5456.

**Pontiac Lake Chapter Update**  
**By Dianne James and Gary Moore**

Riding at Pontiac Lake this summer has been a pleasure due to the cooperative effort within our chapter in maintaining the trails. Several storms this summer downed many large trees, which in most cases, were removed within two days by our members. Trimming overgrowth from trails, an ongoing

project, was kept in check this year with a lot of credit going to Tom Nell who spends time on his own clipping branches.

A big thanks to all members who donated some time from their busy days on August 10 & 11 to install water bars on the eroded hills in the southeast section of the park. Ric Williams worked closely with the DNR on plans for this project and headed up the trail crew. They were able to install over 15 water bars in a section of trail over a mile long.

There is now a trail head sign compliments of the Pontiac Lake Chapter. This sign was designed and built by Tom Pernar. The lettering was done by Tom at where he works on a CNC mill. Tom is an active MMBA member and enjoys many types of outdoor sports (kayaking, x-country skiing, backpacking and of course mountain biking). Nice job. Thanks Tom.

Our goals for a winter project will be to have direction signs on the trail. We also want to put in place a

(continued on pg. 5)



Larry Hatfield and Ric Williams work on a tree that gave new meaning to the term "bumy hop".

(continued from page 4)

trail numbering system that corresponds to the park trail map. ANY MEMBERS WITH ACCESS TO STEEL SIGN POSTS THAT WE COULD USE FOR THIS PROJECT CONTACT GARY MOORE (PRESIDENT) (313) 698-3093 OR RIC WILLIAMS (VICE PRESIDENT) (313) 887-2206. THANKS.

The amount of work done this year has been impressive and surely would not have been accomplished at all if it was not for the MMBA. With trail usage on the increase its even more important that we do our share in maintaining the trails which we ride and enjoy.

Chapter t-shirts will soon be available and can be purchased at Tom Nell Bicycles in Waterford.

**OUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS GO TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED ON THE TRAILS AND WHOSE EFFORTS HAVE MADE RIDING THIS SUMMER VERY ENJOYABLE.**

#### **PROUD LAKE:**

West of Wixom Road, at the Proud Lake Recreation Area about 5 miles of trails in the south west section of this park are open to mountain bikes. Trails are not well marked at this time. We advise if you want to ride here to check in with a park ranger first. The Pontiac Lake Chapter will be having a clean-up here and your ideas and help in this project would be welcomed and appreciated. For more information contact the Pontiac Lakes Chapter of the MMBA.

#### **Potawatomi Chapter**

Potawatomi Chapter  
219 N. First St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
President: Brian Delaney

(313) 761-4421

Vice President: Meg Comeau

(313) 761-4421

Chapter Meeting Dates are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM September through May at Forsythe School, Newport Rd. Ann Arbor. June through August, Conference Room Jim Bradley Pontiac, 3500 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor.

#### **Trashmen Hit The Trail**

**By Meg Comeau**

One of the reasons the MMBA is successful with the DNR is because we give back to the trail. We not only ride and enjoy it, but we help maintain and clean it.

At our April membership meeting, the Potawatomi Chapter decided to have a trash-out on the 17 mile Potawatomi trail system the following Saturday. We phoned members, announced the event in the local paper, and got the DNR to provide trash bags.

At 9:30 Saturday morning, the

sky was clear & the temperature fairly cool. We divided into four teams and targeted areas most hiked and most easily accessible by cars. Trash of choice for the Potawatomi trail users: 1. Canadian Club (pints) 2. Shotgun shells 3. McDonalds.

Heavy plant growth hadn't started, so the trash was pretty visible. We were also extremely visible to everyone else on the trail. Jim Billigan had the ultimate trash-out set-up. He brought panniers, lined them with trash bags and rolled slowly down the trail, stopping whenever something had to be picked up. Other folks used back packs or tied the bags to their bikes. The hikers we met were very appreciative of our efforts as were the Boy Scouts from Northville, who were doing a trash-out "game". On the way back to the parking lot we met some riders from Illinois who were riding the Poto as part of their vacation. (cont. on page 9)



Jim and Brian go for styrofoam on the Crooked Lake trail.

(Potofest Must continued from front page)

with a friend to a mountaineering workshop in North Carolina and took a loaner Stumpjumper Sport and a Ross Force and went riding. Within 2 weeks, we both had bikes.

Brian D: When was the first Potofest?

John R: Let's see...that would be October of '87.. There were 17 of us at the first one.

Brian D: What was the state of mountain biking in Michigan at the time?

Jon R: Extremely low-key. '86 was the first Homestead mountain bike race, which has since become the Sugarloaf Race. I raced Homestead and also down in West Virginia, and by '87 the first road racer types started to filter into it. That was when my friends and myself decided to have an event that would be an alternative to the true "race scenario." We wanted to get back to the true roots of mountain biking--strictly fun on the trail.

Brian D: For anyone new to it, what's the focus of the Potofest?

Jon R: Originally it was to turn people on to the Poto and how to ride it. The NORBA code was always enforced--helmets, yield to equestrians and pedestrians, and have a positive PR role, while still having fun. In the past the award categories I have had are for three things: Best Hilclimb, Best Crash, and Coolest Socks. The prizes have been a hat or a box of Jiffy Mix.

Brian D: I'll direct this question to both Jon Rutherford and Park manager Labossiere: In light of the recent (4/91) article in *Mountain Bike Action Magazine*, which lists

the Poto as one of the "10 Best Trails In The Country" and says that "the best time to ride [it] is the Potofest weekend..." Do you foresee any possible problems with the event this year due to the large number of people who have read the article?

Joh R: In '89 we had 177 riders. People from New Jersey, Utah, Windsor and Toronto came to the event. They just heard about it and came. Now that it's been in *Mountain Bike Action*, I know [the article] will have an impact. I'm going to do everything I can to keep it low-key.

We'll be following trail guidelines, riding in a clockwise courteous fashion. Potofest is as much an attitude as it is an event or non-event. There is no sanctioning, or sponsorship; it's just cats showing up and riding.

Jon L: The old Potofest WAS a non-event. Just a group of people that got together and rode. It was non-competitive and REALLY a non-event. I don't have a problem with people wanting to ride and coming out to use the trails. Where I have a problem is when people ride too fast. We're basically talking about a nice weekend in the fall when the colors are out, and other hikers are out using the trail.

Brain D: Again to both Jon R and Jon L: Would either of you like to make a statement to riders considering attending the Potofest this year?

Jon R: Yeah, I would. I would encourage them to attend but let it be known that it's strictly a fun, festival oriented (if anything, party atmosphere) ride. It's stated at the beginning that you finish [in not less

than] 2 hours, you should stop a lot, socialize and hang around afterwards. I serve cider and donuts to try and foster a non-competitive atmosphere, and there's usually still color on the trees.

Jon L: Come out, ride responsibly and be mindful of other users. You'll do yourself and the sport a world of good.

Jon R: If you're into having a good time, riding a cool area in Michigan in a non-competitive environment, then you should be there. It's fun with a capital "F"!

Editor's note: I might not be a bad idea to recite the MMBA Rules of the Trail (which are on page 2 of this publication) before the ride. Kind of like a pledge of allegiance to the Poto.

BRB

## THE POTO... IS IT ALL IT CAN BE?

When was the last time you rode the Poto? When was the last time you joined the Potawatomi Chapter of the MMBA for a clean up and trail work?

How many people ride the Poto but are strangely missing when there is work to be done to keep the Poto clean and rideable?

Answers to these questions will ultimately affect the most important question of all - **HOW LONG WILL THE POTO STAY OPEN TO MOUNTAIN BIKING?** We have the commitment from the DNR to work with them to enjoy the privilege of riding the Poto, now it is up to the mountain bikers who ride there to live up to their part of the deal. Call Brian or Meg (313) 761-4421, now to help care for the Poto and you won't have to call them to ask why it's closed.

BRB

**Note 3**

Bugs still bugging you? Or heading south for the winter?

Try these tips submitted by Meg Comeau to keep from being bugged:

Wear light colored clothing.

Leave as little exposed skin as possible.

Stay in open spaces as mosquitoes tend to stay around dense vegetation.

To protect against tics:

Wear long sleeves.

Tuck slacks into high socks when camping or hiking.

If a tic is found attached to the skin, don't just pull it out. Layer petroleum jelly over the tick. This will cause it to release its hold making it easy to remove with a cloth or tweezers.

If the area around the bite becomes painful and swollen, or if you suffer from flu-like symptoms, consult your doctor immediately.

Don't forget personal insect repellents are a good bet for avoiding bugs.

**Note 4**

Not going anywhere and fall is breathing down your neck and you find yourself riding in less and less day light? Remember:

Wear light/reflective clothing.

Outfit your bike with a head light and tail light.

Make sure you can complete your off-road ride before dark if you don't have lights for the trail.

**Note 5**

Fall is also the start of the hunting season:

Ride with care in state game areas and recreation areas open to

hunting.

Ride to be seen, but respect the rights of those who are hunting.

For those of you who hunt using your mountain bikes:

Don't ride with a loaded gun.

Make sure your gear/load is distributed evenly on you and the bike.

Try to keep loose clothing to a minimum, as not to be caught in the working mechanism of the bike.

Always follow the MMBA code of conduct when riding your mountain bike.

**Note 6**

**Jordan Valley**

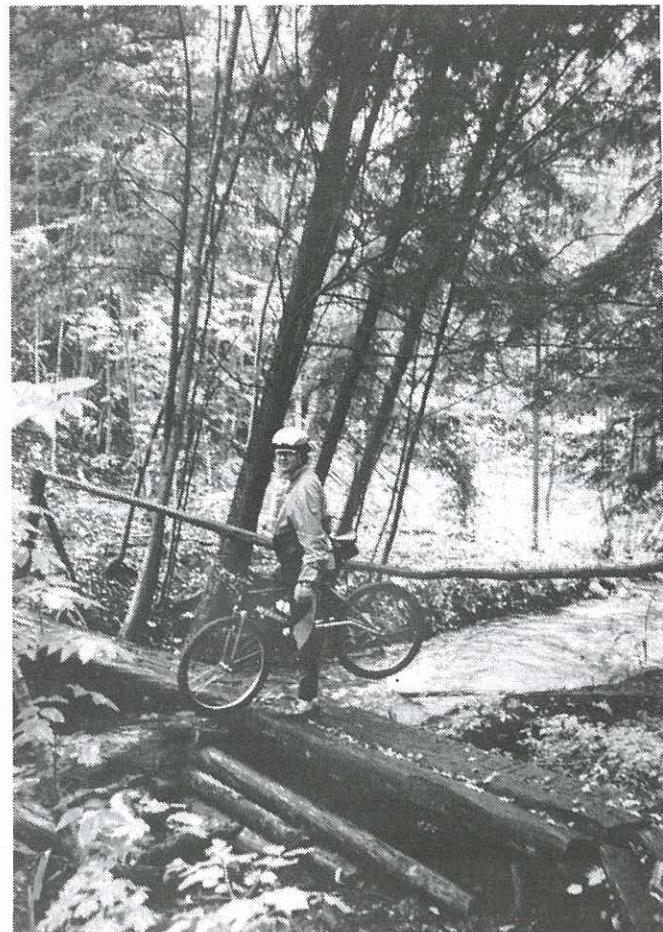
**Explorer:**

**Second Annual Fall  
Outing**

**October 19-20**

There are several trails running through the Jordan River Valley. The most spectacular being around Deadman's Hill. Last year, 11 of us went up when the fall colors were in full blaze and had a great time. This year, because of the race schedule etc., we're scheduling the trip for the weekend of October 19-20.

The panoramic view from the top is amazing, but the fun part is the almost vertical descent to the bottom. Once in the valley there are several loops to choose from. We can even plant cars for those who



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE HERE? SEE NOTE 6**

are up for riding half-loops.

The Singletrack is very technical (twisty roots, bunny hopping) and the more open areas are full of boardwalks and bridges around lakes, streams and ponds.

Base camp is Pinney Bridge Campground, a primitive walk-in campground of the Pinney Bridge Rd. (on Rt. 66 between Mancelona and east Jordan.)

If this is your idea of fun, call Brian Delaney (313) 761-4421, so we'll know to expect you! **B R B**

# Four Corners Area, Start Now And You'll Get There By Next Summer

By  
Meg Comeau

When do you get ready for a vacation for next summer?

Now.

Where do you go? Try the Four Corners area in the southwest United States as Brian and I did last year, and keep in mind two beautiful trails when you are there.

The first is in the Santa Fe National Forest approximately 45 minutes north of Albuquerque; the second is the reknown Slickrock trail in Moab, Utah. Both trails require some amount of technical skill and endurance; they were extremely fun trails because of their widely diverging climates and terrain.

Leaving Albuquerque, we went north on Rt. 25, then west on Rt. 44, then took Rt. 4 into the Jemez Range. The orange red mountains rose up on either side of the road-spiky, jagged, and scattered with pine trees and scrub brush. Several Varieties of cacti were in full bloom and all around us on the road were shattered fragments of boulders that had tumbled off the mountains.

Singletrack trail 137 begins at the East Fork Trailhead. The sky was overcast and during the ride the temperature ranged from 76-55. (this was mid-July!) The first few miles of the trail appeared to be an old logging road that now had many whoop-de-dos built into it to keep 4-wheel drive vehicles out. The air was saturated with the smell of pines. After the logging road we hit a section of singletrack that took us

through a woodsy meadow and right into a herd of cows! Brian wanted to ride slowly on the trail (the cows were on either side of it with lots of calves) while I totally panicked. There weren't any longhorns and none had rings through their noses, but they were so BIG. We went back to the logging road and around the cows. We picked up the singletrack again just as it was beginning to skirt the edge of the mountain. The trail was a bed of pine needles, fragrant and quiet. Fluctuating temperatures caused a mist to churn and rise up toward us from the ground far below. As we followed the trail the view became more panoramic. All traces of civilization vanished. A light, then heavier rain began to fall.

In addition to extra water, a camera, snakebite kit, and Powebars, our beltpacks had rain gear. Brian remained optimistic, but as lighting started flashing on the ridges all around us we had to figure something out. It was too soon to end the adventure and the storm looked like it might blow over, so we hopped on our lighting rods and followed the trail down into the mist. The base of the trail, and we think the point at which another trail feeds in is a grassy area roughly the size of 3 football fields. A stream runs the center, with a pine forest on one side, and a rocky bluff on the other. The rain was letting up, so we took turns posing for pictures until com-

ing face to face with a yellow-green, as yet unidentified, snake. We jammed back up the trail. There were even more cows on the way back and this time the whoop-de-dos were on a slight downhill so we really picked up speed. We got back to the car, feasted on fig cakes and talked to some other riders who were just heading out. Altitude didn't really seem to be a factor until we stopped. It took a little while longer than usual to catch our breath.

There are numerous side routes to this trail making the total mileage anywhere between 7 and 15 miles. It's almost impossible to get lost; the side routes keep looping back to the main trail. Twenty other trails of varying lengths and ability levels are described in the *Mountain Bike Guide to the Jemez Mountain* by Shaw and Hayenga, Big Ring Press, 1990.

From New Mexico, our Four Corners Tour progressed for a brief stay at the Southern Rim of the Grand Canyon and then on through some of the most scenic terrain in the whole country to Moab, Utah.

Moab itself is a pretty small town—maximum of 30,000 people and very dependent on tourism. There are motels and restaurants every where but it's obvious form local newspapers and magazine that the natives want to manage tourism rather than be overrun by it.

We planned to stay in the rapidly expanding Super-8 Motel, but were surprised to see a large sign on the registration desk: NO BIKES ALLOWED IN ROOMS. "Hello, we'd like to cancel our reservations."

The Apache Motel boasted that

John Wayne had slept there. That was good enough for us. We moved in, changed into bike clothes and proceeded to watch the most rain Utah had seen in years and settled in for a good soak.

Finally the rain stopped and within 45 minutes the ground had pretty much dried up. We threw the bikes on top of the car and flew to the Slickrock trail. It's only 5 minutes from "downtown" off Sand Flat Road, which is very steep, twisty, has a huge drop off and of course no guard rails.

Of the 5 day-long trails in the Moab area, Slickrock is the most difficult because it is 10.3 miles on Navajo sandstone. Also, the trail is almost all hill climbing or descending. Downhills are one of the most technical aspects of the trail; sometimes they're so steep that the bottom can't even be seen.

Sandstone provides perfect traction which means that you almost stick to it and are able to ride practically vertical climbs. The trail is marked by white dashes painted right onto the rock. Scenic overlooks and caution zones are marked with yellow paint.

We rode the 2 mile practice loop then came back the next day to tackle the whole trail. My Giant, Sedona had a rack mounted over the rear wheel. The pack contained 4 large water bottles, tool-kit, sunblock, and Powerbars. Brian's Nishiki Alien ACX doesn't have rack braze-ons so he wore a torso pack which held water-bottles, first aid and snakebite kits, fig bars and the camera. There wasn't a cloud all day; water and sunblock were our most important pieces of equip-

ment.

Slickrock differs from singletrack in many ways; most notably elbow room and vegetation. As a beginner rider, the hill climbs were tough-and I was glad to have Onsz bar-ends stuck on the handlebars for climbing.

Rather than the lush canopy common to most singletrack in Michigan, we got to look at crypto-gamic soil, scrub oak, lizards and kangaroo rats. The contrast between rough un-yielding sandstone and small oasis crammed with plants and animals was really interesting to examine and photograph.

We ran into some riders from Chicago about one and a half miles from the car and traded stories about the day's highlights. One of them was familiar with Ann Arbor and the Potawatomi Trail! Five hours after starting, we finished the trail, drank all the cold Gatorade in our new friend's car, talked to some folks who were contemplating riding the practice loop, and headed for the

showers.

The Four Corners area is the perfect setting for a mountain bike vacation because it offers such varied terrain and climate. Also, there are so many trails that they can't possibly be ridden in one trip. You just have to keep going back again and again.

**BRB**

(trashmen hit the trail cont. from page 5)

By 12:30 we were all back at the parking lot comparing trash and stories. Tim Donnelly broke a shoe, Dan Horne lost his seat, and in three hours eleven of us pulled six full bags of trash off the trail.

As summer and fall progress, we're sure lots more trash is accumulating on the trails. There will be more trash-outs throughout the year. Big thanks to Brian Delaney, Hans-Peter Ediger, Jim Gilligan, Reinhold Cordella, Tim Donnelly, Dan Horne, Doug Vlad, Dan Mullins, Dick Keller, Stefani Day and Chirs.

**BRB**

## IT'S TIME TO PICK THE MMBA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Contact your local chapter president to find out how you can help choose that person in your chapter that helped make your mountain biking trails be all they could be. The members chosen from each chapter will be celebrated at the annual MMBA membership meeting in February, and the MMBA member of the year will be honored at that time also.

# MMBA FUN DAY - ADDISON OAKS

## SCOTT TIME TRIAL

### JR WOMEN

Rachel Petrak 4:21

### SR. WOMEN

Jolene Smith 2:42  
Cincy Vandeven 3:35

### JR MEN

Josh Liebrot 2:47  
Sherm Moore 2:49  
Sean OBrien 3:18

### SR MEN

Greg McKenzie 1:51  
Charles Arcensworth 1:59  
Dan McCarthy 2:02

### VET MEN

Bill Petrak 2:10  
Tim O'Brien 2:17  
Gary Moore 2:27

### TANDEM

Gary & Serm Moore 2:29  
Sean & Dan McCarthy 2:36

## TEAM RELAY RACE

## FAMILY

### Irish Dudes

Sean O'Brien

D. O'Brien

Tim O'Brien

Dan MaCharthy

### Knarly Nells

Nick Nell

Marilyn Nell

Jeff Nell

Tom Nell

### Rat Finks

Jimmy Wright

Johanna Wright

Kyle Wright

Charles Wright

## TEAM RELAY (Mixed Team)

### Perty Good Bad Uglys

Joelene Smith

Serm Moore

Gary Moore

Tom Nell

### Peregrine Dirates

Marilyn Nell

Greg McKenzie  
Dwain Abramowski  
Peter O'Rourke 9:56

### Wrong Way Wrights

Kyle Wright  
Charles Arcensworth  
David Reese  
Charles Wright 9:58

## KIDS RACE

### 11-12

Mike McKouzie

Josh Liebort

### 9-10

Sean O'Brien

Mike Liebort

### 8 and under

Jimmy Wright

Nick Nell

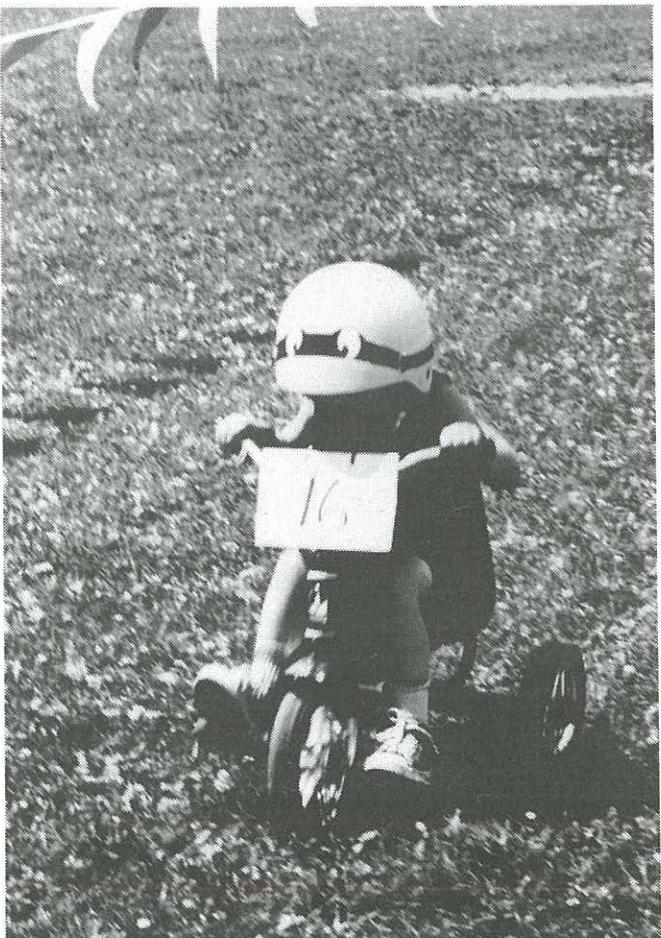
### 6 and under

Rachel Petrak

Johanna Wright

The turn out for the MMBA Fund Day was small, but all those who were there had a great time. Thank you Addison Oaks, and Tom Nell for orgainizing it and see you next year!

BRB



Top Left to Right: Dan McCarthy Sean O'Brien  
Daniel McCarthy, Tim O'Brien, Delores O'Brien-  
Winners of the MMBA Fun Day Family Relay. Right:  
Fun was big time for everyone who showned up.

## LETTERS TO THE BRB:

Dear Fellow Mountain Bikers,

For all of you who attended the Sleeping Bear World Cup Race in Traverse City a million thank you's for making it such a success.

A lot of time and effort from hundreds of volunteers went into trying to produce a good race. For the most part we had a very cooperative, friendly group of people to work with and for.

As the loose ends are tied together a few astonishing things come to surface:

1. The crowd was very orderly and clean. Everyone picked up after them selves and left a minimum about of trash and refuse. Thank you.

2. Our Lost and Found, as small as it was, contained treasures that most would just as soon keep and not turn in. Several pairs of Oakley glasses, a seat bag with \$25 cash still in it (how's that for honesty?) and some helmets (some still unclaimed.)

3. This astonishing fact is one I hate to relate. As we took down the race site and inventoried the banners we were floored at the shortage. Ringle/Grafton who sponsored the Downhill was hit the worst. They ended up 5 Banners short. These are not cheap banners and this is not a large corporation able to absorb these losses. The cost of these banners more than off-set their sponsorship fees. They also have other races to attend and promote and are now without banners and the Sleeping Bear Race will be billed for their replacement. Ringle is not alone, Sugarloaf (who has always

encouraged us to ride their trails - for free) lost a large fabric banner. Specialized (who is here for us every year) lost 200 feet of fencing, several slalom gates and a Start/Finish banner. The Sleeping Bear Committee lost several street banners and ESPN lost several also. I really don't think anyone was intent on causing hardship, but this has turned out to be an incredible expense. If you think races are expensive don't blame it all on fees and promoters. These actions cost all of us money. If anyone would like to return them there will be no question asked. They serve no purpose in your bedrooms, garages, basements or where ever. The loss of these items are a poor reflection on our sport and the spirit that founded it. Please help us out.

Thanks,  
Tim Brick

To: The Board of Director Of the MMBA

After much thought and distress, I regretfully submit my resignation from any and all positions within the MMBA and the Southeast Chapter of the MMBA effective June 30 1991...I feel my experiences have been mostly positive and I have been beneficial to the sport of mountain biking in Southeast Michigan and throughout the state....I shall continue to be a member of the Southeast chapter and will be happy to attend any trail rides or trail maintenance events.

I ask the Trustees of the MMBA and the executive board to do all they can to assist the Board of

Directors of the Southeast Chapter in the transition of duties and responsibilities. I wish the Southeast Chapter the best of luck in the future and encourage its officers to establish a direction for the chapter and a compatible distribution of the work load.

Sincerely,  
Chris Delridge

Sorry to see you go Chris, your hard work and input will be missed. However, we hope to see you out on the trail soon!

*We here at the BRB love to hear from you. It is our goal to talk about what is important to you. Please write us:*

MMBA/Bent Rim Bugle  
P.O. Box 29  
Belmont, MI 49306

BRB

(continued from page 2)  
will be joining the ranks of retired DNR employees. Over the past 30 years, I have met literally thousands of dedicated individuals who support the expansion and enhancement of outdoor recreational opportunities in Michigan. It has been a most rewarding and enjoyable career. Good luck to all!

Jon Roethel  
State Trails  
Coordinator

Editors Note:

Thank you Jon, for a job well done. Your work with the DNR has helped thousands find a place on the trail for all trail related activities . As far as the Michigan Mountain Biking Association goes, we will miss you. Perhaps now you'll have time to hit the trail yourself! See you out there.

BRB

## MMBA OBTAINS TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

By John Dohan

The Board and Trustees of the MMBA is pleased to announce that the MMBA has now achieved tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The official determination and acknowledgment letter was received from the IRS in August and confers this valued status retroactively back to the time of the MMBA's initial incorporation on January 3, 1990.

What does all of this mean to the MMBA and its members who don't happen to be tax consultants, accountants or lawyers? First, donations to the MMBA are tax deductible. This includes membership dues which exceed \$20.00 for individuals and \$100.00 for bike shops. Second, the MMBA, as an organization, pays no taxes when acting within the scope of its tax-exempt purposes. For example, it is not likely to pay any income taxes. Because of this, the MMBA may accomplish its objectives in a significantly more economical fashion. Tax-exempt status further allows the MMBA to engage in activities otherwise prohibited, such as raffles, for fund raising purposes.

In summary, tax-exemption under 501 (c) (3) is very prized and privileged status which many organizations aspire to achieve, but which is very selectively awarded. Although maintaining this status requires additional work by way of annual filings and disclosures for your already hard working trustees, we can all be proud of the growing strength and public recognition of our organization.

BRB

## Grand Island

### By Rachel Shaw

*(Based upon a conversation I had with Norm Roller, Chair of the Huron Valley Group of the Sierra Club, at a Sierra Club meeting last summer, we both felt it was a good idea to share information and news letters so that both groups can be knowledgeable of each other's ideas and activities. This article is reprinted from the Huron Valley Group Newsletter, as well as events that the Sierra Club will be holding on multi-use trails in the state in up-coming months.)*

Most people who see Grand Island probably do so from a distance, in the course of the Pictured Rocks Boat cruise. But this newly designated National Recreation area near Munising is worth a trip to the U.P... for its own sake. Grand Island in summer is not as remote as Isle Royale, but it's not Mackinac Island either. You might see a forest Service truck rattling around a curve, or some cyclists racing down a hill, on the other hand you could hike for half a day and not encounter another human being. You will certainly find beautiful views of lake Superior, northern hardwood and pine forests, remote sandy beaches and cliffs, raspberries and blueberries in abundance, and unless you go early or late in the season, ferocious mosquitoes, particularly near the two inland lakes.

Grand Island has a special quality, although that quality is hard to define. It is certainly not an untouched wilderness, although people who visit it often think of it that way. The island was privately

held by the Cleveland Cliffs Company for most of this century; it was heavily logged and was also used for private recreation. Inholders' houses are evident along the eastern shore, and the island is covered with old logging roads. Still, you might have a mile and half of sand beach to yourself at Trout Bay. Walking along the road that connects the main part of the island to its smaller "thumb" you're likely to see fresh bear tracks. As one visitor said, "it's not that hard to get to, but you still feel like you've gotten far away from everything."

What happens to Grand Island in the future will depend on decisions made in the next few months. Since acquiring the island in 1989, the Forest Service has solicited public comments on how it should be managed and has begun drafting alternative plans. This fall they will select a preferred alternative and again seek public comments. A final management plan should be released by July of 1992.

At present management is minimal. The concessionaire-operated ferry docks 3 times a day in summer, twice daily in spring and fall. Williams Landing boasts a Forest Service sign, a picnic table and a small bulletin board with a map and a modest amount of information about the island. A Forest Service employee sometimes travels on the boat or greets visitors at the landing, and may inquire about itineraries. Other than that you're on your own. If the weather turns bad or you miss the six o'clock ferry, you'll spend the night whether you'd planned to or not.

(continued on page 13)

There are not hard surfaces roads, and erosion is evident, especially around the perimeter of the island. Major forks in a main road sometimes merit a small sign with a map-not always completely accurate. Cars are not prohibited, but are impractical for anyone but summer residents and Forest Service employees, due to the expense of transporting them to the island. There are two primitive campgrounds with fire rings and pittoilets.

Although Grand Island is at present little used, it will become more popular as it becomes better known. Already mountain bikers are beginning to discover the island. The distance from the landing to North Beach, the most beautiful part of the island, is nine miles, making this a practical means of transportation. Boaters also may make more use of the island, particularly Murray Bay, easily accessed from the mainland.

Many local people hope for development of Grand Island, and the enacting legislation requires that consideration be given to siting a lodge there. Others, often outside the local area , fear overdevelopment. One of the most frequent public comments about how to manage the island, according to the Forest Service, has been "leave it alone!"

Even if the Forest Service chooses to do just that, its unlikely that the public will, given the attractions of Grand Island. Still, there are some natural limits to high summertime use: distance from major metropolitan centers, the present lack of approved drinking water, and perhaps most important, an insect population that can be quite ferocious. A trip in May can be virtually

bug-free, while one later in the season can produce quite a crop of welts on exposed skin. For this reason alone, winter may continue to be the use season, with the island attracting snowmobile users both locally and from some distance.

But those, like myself, who have fallen in love with this land are not likely to be deterred from returning by difficulty of access, bugs, or anything else. One of it charms is the relative solitude one can find there. It's a tall order to hope that Grand Island can be managed so that it can be enjoyed by a variety of users, while still maintaining some of its qualities of remoteness and beauty, but those who care about the island can work toward nothing less.

#### **Sierra Club Events:**

**Sept. 27-29: Jordan River Pathway Base Camp.** Day hikes from base-camp. Okay for kids.

**Oct. 6: Brighton Recreation Area hike and potluck picnic.**

**Oct. 11-13: North County Trail Service Trip.** Fall color hiking and

working.

#### **Oct. 13: Cider Mill Bike Ride.**

Ride alongside the mighty Huron canopied by the autumn colors. We'll stop for a view of the surging Dehi rapids. Bring some money for the cider and doughnut feast at the Dexter Cider Mill. All rider welcome, no reservation required.

#### **Oct. 27: Crooked Lake Hike.** Hike this trail in the perfect time of year.

**Nov. 3: Bushwhack around the Potawatomi Trail.** Experience the off-the-trail delights of the Pinckney recreation area. Get your heart rate up by traversing the glacially-sculpted moraines, sink-holes and ravines in one of the most rugged regions in southeastern Michigan.

For information on these and other Sierra Club activities contact: Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group Mackinac Chapter Information Hot Line at (313) 966-5656.

**BRB**

Your trails were not meant just to hike  
you can share them with my bike  
For I enjoy nature too  
and the c climb to a mountain top  
for a breath-taking view  
And I hear the birds fuss at me  
and listen when they ask that I leave them be  
And I thrill to see the baby bunny hop  
across the trail and then suddenly stop  
and sit up and look and sniff the air  
then hop through the bushes to who knows where  
And I watch amazed as a deer bounds by  
so strong and quick  
more gifted than I  
And wonder if he gives a care  
with what animals he must share his trails and waters and woods so fair.  
By Cheryl Burford

## MMBA POINT SERIES LEADERS-

### As of August 21, 1991

**WOMENS**

| Expert           |       | BEGINNERS               |
|------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 Lisa Leon      | 3.250 | Up to 17                |
| 2 Lorena Seldon  | 2.000 | 1 Matt pierce 4.094     |
| 3 Cheryl Burford | 1.833 | 2 Michael O'Brian 3.917 |
| Sport            |       | 3 Nick Schmidt 1.817    |
| 1 Lorena Seldon* | 5.00  | 18 to 25                |
| 2 Joelene Smith  | 2.357 | 1 Scott Lee 4.732       |
| 3 Stefani Day    | 2.133 | 2 Paul Wakefield 2.607  |
| Beginner         |       | 3 Daniel Jennings 1.833 |
| 1 Pam Savick     | 4.600 | 26 to 34                |
| 2 Meg Comeau     | 2.267 | 1 Lewis Tripp 4.938     |
| 3 Debra Sieloff  | 2.083 | 2 Jim James 4.564       |

**MENS**

| Pro-Am             |       |  |
|--------------------|-------|--|
| 1 Mark Cramer      | 4.500 |  |
| 2 Steve Hammett    | 4.216 |  |
| 3 Keith Ketterer   | 3.892 |  |
| Expert up to 25    |       |  |
| 1 Joe Fritsch      | 5.000 |  |
| 2 Jeff Laino       | 2.689 |  |
| 3 Ron Bollenberghe | 2.289 |  |
| Expert 26 and up   |       |  |
| 1 Randy Guymer     | 4.350 |  |
| 2 Brian Creeger    | 4.304 |  |
| 3 Jeff Smith       | 3.474 |  |

**SPORT**

| Up to 17            |       |  |
|---------------------|-------|--|
| 1 Bob Lawson        | 5.00  |  |
| 2 Grant Loutit      | 2.167 |  |
| 3 Chris Haraburda   | 1.000 |  |
| 18 to 25            |       |  |
| 1 Bill Dietlen      | 4.537 |  |
| 2 Jay Campbell      | 4.219 |  |
| 3 Richard Susan     | 4.017 |  |
| 26 to 34            |       |  |
| 1 Graig James*      | 5.000 |  |
| 2 Dave Hollis       | 4.537 |  |
| 3 Tim Donnelly      | 4.390 |  |
| 35 to 44            |       |  |
| 1 Gary Moore        | 4.438 |  |
| 2 Reinhold Cordeela | 4.400 |  |
| 3 Don Camp          | 4.282 |  |
| 45 to 54            |       |  |
| 1 Tim Greening      | 4.833 |  |
| 2 Gary Cook         | 4.124 |  |
| 3 Charles Robertson | 3.433 |  |
| 55+                 |       |  |
| 1 Tom Nell          | 4.000 |  |
| 2 Ken Genest        | 2.333 |  |
| 3 Tory Creech       | 2.167 |  |

**BEGINNERS**

| Up to 17          |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1 Matt pierce     | 4.094 |
| 2 Michael O'Brian | 3.917 |
| 3 Nick Schmidt    | 1.817 |
| 18 to 25          |       |
| 1 Scott Lee       | 4.732 |
| 2 Paul Wakefield  | 2.607 |
| 3 Daniel Jennings | 1.833 |
| 26 to 34          |       |
| 1 Lewis Tripp     | 4.938 |
| 2 Jim James       | 4.564 |
| 3 Britt Michel    | 4.205 |

35 to 44

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1 Steve Montague  | 4.800 |
| 2 Pat Bruce       | 3.507 |
| 3 William McLaren | 3.150 |

45 to 54

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| 1 Jon Reiter     | 2.500 |
| 2 Robert Yonkers | 2.000 |
| 3 Don Campbell   | 0.500 |

\*Moved To Expert

REMEMBER YOU MUST  
REGESITER AT THE MMBA POINT  
SERIES TABLE AT EACH RACE  
WHETHER YOU ARE AN MMBA  
MEMBER OR NOT. IF YOU DO NOT  
CHEKC IN AND REGESTER AT THE  
MMBA TABLE YOUR RACE WILL  
NOT COUNT. IF YOU CAN'T FIND  
THE TALBE PLEASE ASK THE  
PROMOTER. THANK YOU.

B R B

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**Mountain Dew** 

**Powered by PowerBar**

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**highwheeler** 211 5th River, Holland, MI

**MMBA Point Series Finale Sunday, October 13**

**Fun Time Trail  
Downhill Slalom  
Cross Country Race  
Bunny Hop Contest**

**For more information call  
(616) 453-4245  
Brent Walk  
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(616) 396-6084  
Highwheeler**

**PRE-ENTRY FORM (deadline Oct. 7th)**

Free Waterbottle & Power Bar to first 400 entries

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact & phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor or club: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES**

**CROSS COUNTRY EVENTS 3.8 mile course**

| Class   | Laps | Places | Awards |
|---|------|--------|--------|
| Race #1 - 12:30   |      |        |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Timer Men                    | 1    | 5      |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Timer Women                  | 1    | 5      |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 & under kids "Guy" \$5. Entry | 1    | 5      |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 & under beginner              | 2    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 beginner                   | 2    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 & over beginner               | 2    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masters 45-54                    | 2    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Super Masters 55+                | 2    | 5      |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Womens Beginner                  | 2    | 10     |        |
| Race #2 - 1:30  |      |        |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Womens Sport                     | 3    | 5      |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 & under Sport                 | 3    | 5      |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 Sport                      | 4    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-34 Sport                      | 4    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vets 35-44                       | 4    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Womens Expert                    | 5    | 5      |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expert                           | 5    | 10     |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pro Am - \$300 entry             | 6    | 5      |        |

**FUN TIME TRIAL 1.5 miles of fun**

Women  Beginner  Sport  Expert

No age groups - five medals per class

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| Non-Member        | \$ 3.00 |
| Total Sen:        | \$      |

Make check or money order to:  
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Traverse City, Mi 49684

TO ALL OUR SHOPS AND  
MANUFACTURERS WHO SUPPORT THE  
EFFORTS OF THE MMBA - THANK YOU!

## JUST OVER THE LINE:

(late breaking news)

The Abominable Snow Race  
Returns  
When: Dec. 15 (tentative)  
Where: Contact The Poto  
Chapter  
The Weather: Sunny and  
Warm with a high of 70  
degrees ( not necessary at  
the race)

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE NEW DIRECTOR OF  
THE MICHIGAN DNR,  
ROLLIE HARNS AND TO  
THE NEW CHIEF OF  
PARKS RUSS HARDING.  
THE MMBA WISHES  
YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR  
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STANDS READY TO  
WORK WITH YOU TO  
MAKE MICHIGAN A  
BETTER PLACE TO LIVE  
AND RECREATE.

If you would like to  
contact them write them at,  
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- Subscription to BRB
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- An opportunity for you to have a say in the direction of mountain biking in Michigan

Make checks/money order payable to:

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*\* Michigan Mountain Biking Association (M.M.B.A) is a Non-Profit Organization currently seeking Tax Exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions may be Tax Exempt to the extent permitted by law pending IRS determination expected in 1990.*

### Michigan Mountain Biking Association

P.O.Box 274 Detroit, MI 48231

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